

District II Advisory Board Minutes

March 2, 2009

www.wichita.gov

The District II Advisory Board meeting was held at 7:00 p.m. at the Rockwell Branch Library, 5939 E. 9th Street North. CM Schlapp was in attendance, (7) board members attended, (6) staff and approximately (10) citizens were in attendance. Only those individuals who signed in are listed as guests below.

Members Present

Max Weddle
Larry Frutiger
Daryl Crotts
Phil Ryan
Tim Goodpasture
Brian Carduff
Marty Weeks

Allison Wegner-Youth Member
Nick Pompeo- Youth Member

Staff Present

Antione Sherfield- Neighborhood Assistant
Robert Layton - City Manager
Chief Blackwell - Wichita Fire Department
Capt. Jim Martin – Wichita Fire Department
Officer Lloyd - Wichita Police Department
Dennis Graves - Animal Services

Members Absent

Joe Johnson
Sarah Devries
David Mollhagen
Aaron Mayes

Guests

Listed below

ORDER OF BUSINESS

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. DAB members did introductions. CM Schlapp welcomed everyone and explained how the DAB meeting is conducted. She advised the audience that she likes to receive feedback from her board on issues brought before them. The Board helps with decision making on very difficult issues but ultimately she makes the final decision.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND AGENDA

- February minutes approved (7-0)
- March agenda approved (7-0)

PUBLIC AGENDA

1. Off-Agenda Items

No items submitted.

- 2. Libby Smith, Youthville** presented information in reference to the foster care program at Youthville.

Libby stated that there is a great need for children in need of care to be relocated back into the community. She encouraged the audience to spread the word to someone if they were not interested in participating in the foster care program. She also stated that Youthville will be taking a lot of kids back from DCCCA Inc. and don't have the necessary resources to house these individuals.

CM Schlapp thanked Libby for her presentation and wished her well with the recruitment process.

STAFF REPORT

3. Community Police Report

Officer Lloyd provided information pertaining to current crime trends in District II. Officer Lloyd stated that Beat 39 is experiencing street racing activity. Beat 39 is located in the Harry/Webb area of District II. WPD will work to decrease this activity in the area. Officer Lloyd stated that the Police Department will monitor Cottonwood Park a little closely. Cottonwood Park is located near Lincoln and Armour. There has been some arson and vandalism taking place in the park. WPD is in the process of securing resources to have the park cleaned up and user friendly for the residents in the area.

Officer Lloyd also stated that WPD caught a suspect who may be responsible for several car burglaries in the North Rock area.

Phil Ryan, DAB Member asked if this was the person responsible for (4) car burglaries at the Genesis Gym located near 13th Street and Rock Rd.

Officer Lloyd stated that more than likely it is the same individual.

Marty Weeks, DAB Member asked Officer Lloyd if WPD was able to determine the cause of the fatality that occurred at Douglas Ave and Rock Rd. the other day.

Officer Lloyd stated that the driver had the green light, the teenager who was on a skateboard attempted to beat the car across the street but was not successful.

Recommended Action: Receive and file

3. Community Fire Report

Captain Jim Martin provided information pertaining to Fire Service calls in District II. Captain Martin stated that there were 15 fires in District II last month. He did not provide specifics in regard to the cause of the fires. Captain Martin also stated that the Wichita Fire Department is teaming up with the Humane Society to promote the Free Pet Adoption program. The program is designed for individuals who lose pets in house fires. Lastly, Captain Martin stated that Fire Station #20 should be completed by the end of March.

Recommended Action: Receive and file

4. Introduction of New City Manager Robert Layton

New City Manager Robert Layton provided summation in regard to his first month as City Manager.

Robert Layton stated that the DAB process is unique because it allows citizens an opportunity to have direct input when community issues arise. He commended the Wichita Fire Department and Wichita Police Department. He stated that he was impressed with both Departments, specifically the professionalism they display. Mr. Layton also stated that he has felt welcomed by everyone in the community and hopes that he can meet or exceed the expectations.

Larry Frutiger, DAB Member asked what was the biggest problem facing the City of Wichita.

Mr. Layton stated the Budget. The City of Wichita could be as much as 10 Million dollars out of balance in the General Fund in 2010. He has challenged all Departments to think strategically, define core missions, engage the City Council in this on an ongoing basis and bring information back to the public.

Phil Ryan, DAB Member asked if we could reduce the budget by cost cutting versus raising the mil levy.

Mr. Layton stated that he was not in favor of raising the mil levy.

Brian Carduff, DAB Member asked what were some of the biggest opportunities for the City of Wichita for the next couple of years.

Mr. Layton stated difficulties often result in opportunities. He stated that we currently have good staff and now is a good time to engage them in discussion in regard to basic business practice. He also stated that Downtown Wichita is exciting and there are a lot of good things happening that we need to build on. The City of Wichita is a great community, we have everything to become a world class City and Downtown may be the last piece to that.

Tim Goodpasture, DAB Member asked what the time frame was for the laid off workers center.

Mr. Layton stated that it is scheduled to start June 1st of this year. He also stated that the date may be accelerated because there is a lot of work to be done.

Recommended Action: Receive and file

5. **Dennis Green, Environmental Services,** presented proposed changes to Chapter 6.04. These revisions include: 1) New pit bull ownership restrictions; 2) Amendments to allow flexibility with rabies vaccination schedule; 3) New animal nuisance provisions; 4) Additional requirements for Commercial Animal Establishments; 5) Comprehensive changes to Animal Maintenance Permit system and increased fees; 6) Changes to Breeder's License requirements including alignment with Unified Zoning Code; 7) Amendments to owning livestock including mandatory acreage requirements; and 8) new regulations for dog parks. Also, Chapters 6.12 and 6.16 were deleted and incorporated into Chapter 6.04.

Dennis stated the primary argument heard from citizens is that the problem is the owners, not the breed. Regardless, he said Wichita has a pit bull problem, and while they are not recommending a breed ban, they do want to place some restrictions on ownership.

Regarding vaccinations, Dennis said they are requesting more flexibility whereby veterinarians can decide in their own practices what is best for the animal. He said there will still be a required vaccination because rabies is a fatal disease, but they did make a compromise. He pointed out that just last week there was an incident in the city where a rabid skunk bit two dogs. Dennis said he refuses to compromise public health.

Dennis referred back to the documents provided to DAB members and gave a brief overview of the new requirements for cats and livestock, regulating animal-related businesses, changes with breeder's licenses and regulations for new dog parks.

Chris Hesse, 230 N. Crestway asked what was the purpose of the animal maintenance permit.

Dennis stated the purpose of the permit is to limit the amount of animals in neighborhoods.

Chris Hesse stated that this is not a health issue for animals.

Dennis stated that it can be as it is more difficult to take care of more animals.

Chris asked if there was latitude to change the number of animals allowed.

Dennis stated that you can apply for a waiver which would allow you to have more animals.

David Kimelen, 6903 Woodbury stated that apartment wise you can still have two dogs. He went on to state that this is a way to create advanced revenue streams for the City of Wichita. He also asked where the money that is paid for fees directed.

CM Schlapp stated that the money is directed to the Animal Services Department. It takes a lot of resources to go after people who are not responsible animal owners.

Brian Carduff, DAB Member stated that the backgrounds checks involved are very tedious and expensive. This entire process is very expensive for the City of Wichita.

David Babich, 4431 Ironwood stated that the new ordinance is designed to encourage neighborhoods to be responsible and to support the Environmental Services Department.

Karl Monger, 322 Colonial stated that he appreciates what the Environmental Services Department is doing and feels this is a good compromise. He stated that the pit bull is a good dog that wants to please his master. He stated that he understands why the City has adopted the ordinance to have adult pit bulls micro-chipped and sterilized. There is a lot of illegal breeding taking place within the City limits.

Larry Frutiger, DAB Member asked when is the new ordinance coming for final approval.

Dennis stated that the ordinance will be going before the Council on March 10, 2009. He also stated that District II provides roughly 2% to 3% of the of the work load of Animal Services.

CM Schlapp thanked Dennis for his presentation and applauded the hard work that the Environmental Services Department provides City of Wichita residents.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m. The next DAB II Meeting will be April 6, 2009.

Respectfully Submitted,
Antione Sherfield, Neighborhood Assistant

Guest

David Kimelen

Gerta Senberger

Dennis Coraves

Libby Smith

Mike Freeman

David Babich

Paula Hancock

Chris Hesse

Karl and Sara Monger

Onipal Chauhand